

Claims

1. A method of suppressing noise in a signal containing noise to provide a noise suppressed signal in which an estimate is made of the noise and an estimate is made of speech together with some noise.

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2. A method according to claim 1 in which the signal comprises speech.

3. A method according to claim 1 in which the level of the noise included in the estimate of the speech together with some noise is variable so as to include a desired amount of noise in the noise suppressed signal.

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4. A method according to claim 3 in which the level of the noise provides an acceptable level of context information.

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5. A method according to claim 1 in which the level of the noise is below the mask limit of the speech and so is not audible to a listener.

6. A method according to claim 1 in which the level of noise approaches the mask limit of the speech and so some noise context information is left in the signal.

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7. A method of producing a gain coefficient for noise suppression in which a first estimation of the gain coefficient is made adaptively and this first estimation is used to produce a noise estimation which is then used to produce a second estimation of the gain function.

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8. A method according to claim 7 in which the estimated noise is power spectral density.

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9. A method according to claim 7 in which the first estimation is used to up-date the estimated noise.